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ALLOWANCES TO PRISONERS

To Provide Counsel for Indigent Defendants Charged with Felony.—The following are bills introduced in the Massachusetts legislature. They and others are commented upon elsewhere in this issue in the article by Mr. Baker, reprinted from the *Boston Transcript*. (House bill 1067.)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. The superior court, at the beginning of a criminal term in any district, or at any time during such term, may appoint a person to act as counsel for indigent defendants charged with felonies, other than capital offenses, and may at any time revoke such appointment.

SECTION 2. Such appointment in the Suffolk district may be for any period not exceeding one year, at the discretion of the court. In other districts such appointment shall be for a single term of the court.

SECTION 3. The compensation to be allowed to counsel so appointed shall be fixed by the court, but the amount paid for his services shall not exceed one-half of the salary of the district attorney for the same length of time. The court shall allow the reasonable expenses incurred and paid by counsel so appointed.

SECTION 4. If a person so charged appears for arraignment without counsel, the court shall ascertain whether or not he desires counsel, and if so, whether or not he is able to obtain it. If satisfied that he is not able to do so, the court may assign him, as counsel, the person appointed as hereinbefore provided.

SECTION 5. A person so charged, upon his request in writing, shall have a list of the jurors who have been returned, and in the discretion of the court may have process to summon witnesses who are necessary to his defence. All expenses incurred under this act in any case shall be paid by the county in which such case originated.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

R. H. G.

To Authorize Certain Allowances to Prisoners.—(Mass. House, 1080.)
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. From and after the first day of July of the current year each prisoner in the state prison, the Massachusetts reformatory, the reformatory for women and the prison camp may receive from the treasury of the commonwealth a sum of money not exceeding three dollars per month.

The prison commissioners from time to time shall make rules, consistent with the provisions of this act, governing the amount of said allowance and the conditions upon which a prisoner may receive it. The money shall be paid quarterly to the warden or superintendent on a schedule approved by said commissioners, and shall be held by him in trust for said prisoners. He shall keep an account of all moneys so received separate from all other accounts, and shall disburse the same as hereinafter provided. He may pay to any prisoner discharged between two quarterly payments any money due him under the provisions of this act, taking his receipt therefor, and the money so paid shall be refunded on a schedule approved by said commissioners.

SECTION 2. The warden or superintendent shall retain, from the money received by him under the provisions of the preceding section, such portion